

GTA agreement with Microsoft reduces software costs

GTA negotiated an enterprise agreement with Microsoft that reduces the cost to purchase and support popular business software programs by at least 50 percent when compared to other discount prices. The agreement covers

- MS Office 2003 or XP, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook
- MS operating system and
- connection licenses to other Microsoft products.

The negotiated price of \$240.50 per computer is valid for three years after enrollment. Security enhancements and other features provided by Microsoft are included at no additional cost.

A separate Microsoft Select Agreement offers volume discounts on additional products that are purchased individually. They include

- Windows 2000 server, NT or XP server
- Exchange 2000 message server, NT or XP server and
- Project, Visio and developmental software.

For more information about the agreements, contact GTA's Lisa Mehalko at 404-463-4252.

To enroll in the agreements, contact Software Spectrum at 404-479-6602.

Local governments enrolled in the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement are also eligible for the **Microsoft Home Use Program**. It allows local government employees to purchase

Microsoft Office Professional directly from Microsoft for use on their home computers for \$19.95 (plus tax and shipping).

For more information, contact GTA's Lisa Mehalko or Microsoft Sales Representative Don Lionetti at 800-426-9400, ext. 11533.

More choices, greater buying power for PC purchases

Local governments can choose from among three highly competitive sources when it comes time to purchase computers and related products: the General Services Administration's (GSA) Schedule 70, the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) and GTA-negotiated contracts.

The GSA Schedule 70 is a catalog of vendor contracts originally developed for the exclusive use of federal agencies.

Through WSCA, local governments can combine their purchasing power with governments in more than 36 other states to obtain big savings on new PCs.

To provide Georgia governments with even more choices, GTA negotiates additional contracts for a variety of specialized IT products and services.

For more information, including price lists, procedures for using enterprise contracts and links to hardware contracts, visit GTA's Web site at www.gta.georgia.gov/procurement. Click on Hardware Contracts.

Making it easy to find temporary IT professionals

Now it's quick and easy for local governments to find temporary professionals to supplement their information technology staffs. Through the IT staff management contract, Venturi Technology Partners operates a Web site where local government agencies can simply submit the skills, prior experience and related requirements they're looking for in an IT professional. Venturi Technology Partners compares the requirements with a pool of ready candidates and submits at least three for consideration within 72 hours. All candidates are screened to verify education, work history and references before adding them to the pool.

An automated management system helps to reduce administrative costs in other ways. Timesheets can be reviewed and approved online, and there's only one itemized monthly bill for all temporary IT workers. Payment options include electronic funds transfer.

The IT staff management contract has reduced the cost of temporary IT professionals by an average of \$8 per hour.

For more information, visit www.gtasms.com.

Specialized services contract helps agencies with tech projects

The Specialized Consulting Services contract negotiated by GTA makes it easier and faster for local governments to solicit proposals from contractors in five disciplines. It eliminates the need to conduct costly, time-consuming searches for qualified contractors when seeking assistance with technology projects in the areas of

- budgeting
- planning
- business process review and re-engineering
- independent verification and validation
- project management.

Companies on the list of certified contractors have agreed to specific performance standards, and agencies may impose additional requirements. There are more than 150 contractor listings in all five disciplines.

When using the contract, local governments must submit a statement of need to every contractor in the specific discipline. This provides each certified contractor with an equal opportunity to compete for government business, although contractors are not required to respond to every statement of need they receive. Local governments must also provide GTA with an evaluation of the contractor's performance.

For more information, visit GTA's Web site at www.gta.georgia.gov/procurement. Click on Services Contracts, then Specialized Consulting Services.